

REMARKS

Claims 1-9, 14-20, and 25-32 are pending in the present application. In the Final Office Action mailed on May 8, 2006, the Examiner rejected claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicant hereby cancels claims 1-8 without prejudice. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the foregoing amendments, and reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in the Final Office Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicant respectfully thanks the Examiner for the time spent on the telephone on December 5, 2006, discussing the disposition of the case with applicant's representatives. During the discussion, applicant and the Examiner discussed the rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The applicant and the Examiner did not reach a resolution. However, in the spirit of advancing prosecution on this matter, applicant has made the amendments described below.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

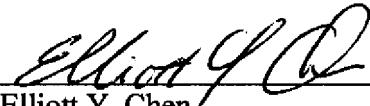
The Final Office Action states that claims 9, 14-20, and 25-32 are allowed. Applicant hereby thanks the Examiner for the allowance of these claims. Therefore, without further comment as to the merits of the Examiner's rejections of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and without prejudice to subsequent continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional applications, applicant hereby cancels claims 1-8 to expedite the issuance of subject matter acknowledged as being allowable.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 9, 14-20, and 25-32 are now in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining matters that may be handled by telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: 1-11-07

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